



Announcement of Scholarship Opportunities Under the

Borlaug Higher Education Agricultural Research and Development (BHEARD) Program

Under its Feed the Future initiative, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has launched the Borlaug Higher Education Agricultural Research and Development (BHEARD) Program. Implemented by Michigan State University (MSU), the BHEARD program honors the legacy of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Norman Borlaug. The program will support long-term training of agricultural and food security researchers and policy advisors at the master's and doctoral levels. This is a major new effort to increase the number of agricultural scientists and policy advisors and strengthen scientific institutions in developing countries.

Malawi has been selected as one of nine countries for the third cohort of BHEARD Fellows. The scholarships will support study in the United States or other selected countries, beginning in January or August 2015. Training programs will cover up to two years of courses for master's students and up to three years of courses for doctoral students. Course work will be undertaken at a U.S. or regional university, and the student's research project will be conducted in Malawi.

Eligibility is limited to current staff members from the following institutions:

- **Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), particularly Bunda College of Agriculture**
- **Department of Agricultural Research Services (DARS)**
- **Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MoAFS)**

Priority will be given to applicants who desire training in the following subject areas:

- **DARS: biometrics, crop & soil science, and food science**
- **LUANAR: human nutrition, animal, crop and soil sciences, agricultural economics and agribusiness**
- **MoAFS: all fields related to agriculture**

The Trainee Selection Committee will review applications and select candidates based on the following criteria:

1. Current and future role at one of the participating institutions.
2. Malawian national residing in Malawi.
3. Strong academic performance at the Bachelor's level (first or upper second class pass) or Master's level. Relevant educational background and professional experience.
4. Strong written and spoken English language skills.
5. Evidence of commitment to a future career in developing agricultural research in Malawi
6. Under 32 years of age for master's applicants, and under 35 years of age for PhD applicants. An exception may be made for female PhD candidates up to the age of 40.

Qualified female candidates are especially encouraged to apply.

Applications and application procedures may be obtained from <http://www.bheard.isp.msu.edu/> or by emailing BHEARD@isp.msu.edu.

The application deadline is 30 June 2014.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Borlaug Higher Education for
Agricultural Research and Development

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

APPLICATION FOR GRADUATE DEGREE SCHOLARSHIP
DEADLINE: 30 June 2014

<i>Surname (family name) as it appears in your passport:</i>		<i>First name (as it appears in passport)</i>		<i>Second name (as it appears in passport)</i>	
<i>Age (years)</i>	<i>Sex (M/F)</i>	<i>Mailing address</i>			
<i>Telephone 1</i>			<i>Telephone 2</i>		
<i>Email 1</i>			<i>Email 2</i>		
<i>Position (job title)</i>			<i>Employer</i>		
<i>Supervisor</i>			<i>Work location (region, district, village/town/city)</i>		
<i>Undergraduate degree</i>		<i>University where undergraduate degree was obtained</i>		<i>Date of undergraduate degree award</i>	
<i>Master's degree field (if applicant already has one; otherwise leave blank)</i>		<i>University where Master's degree was obtained (if applicant already has one; otherwise leave blank)</i>		<i>Date of Master's degree (if applicant already has one; otherwise leave blank)</i>	
<i>Have you participated in any non-degree training programs of more than 3 months? (yes/no)</i>		<i>If answer at left is "yes," which university or organization provided the training?</i>		<i>If answer at the far left is "yes," what was the focus or title of the training?</i>	
<i>Desired field of study for graduate degree(subject and MS or PhD)</i>			<i>Intended area of research</i>		
<i>Have you taken the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or IELTS? (yes/no)</i>		<i>If you have taken the TOEFL or IELTS, what was the examination date? Otherwise, leave blank.</i>		<i>If you have taken the TOEFL or IELTS, what score did you get? Otherwise, leave blank.</i>	
<i>Have you taken the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)? (yes/no)</i>		<i>If you have taken the GRE, what was the date of the examination? Otherwise, leave blank.</i>		<i>If you have taken the GRE, what score did you get? Otherwise, leave blank.</i>	
		<i>Quantitative</i>	<i>Verbal</i>	<i>Analytical</i>	

CHECKLIST FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS:

PLEASE SEND SCANNED COPIES OF ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO BHEARD@MSU.EDU BY 30 June 2014:

- APPLICATION FORM
- LETTER OF INTENT, describing your academic and research background, and your plans for graduate study under a BHEARD scholarship. Include how your studies will benefit agricultural research in Malawi in the future.
- Curriculum Vitae (Education, work experience, publications, etc.)
- University transcripts
- Degree certificates
- Passport identification page (or other ID)

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:

- THREE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION
 - PLEASE GIVE THIS [Instructions for Letter of Recommendation Writers FORM](#) TO EACH RECOMMENDER. LETTERS MUST BE SENT DIRECTLY FROM THE RECOMMENDER TO THE BHEARD OFFICE.
- EMPLOYER'S LETTER OF RELEASE
 - PLEASE GIVE THIS [Instructions for Employer's Release for Studies](#) FORM TO YOUR EMPLOYER. THE LETTER OF RELEASE MUST BE SENT DIRECTLY FROM THE EMPLOYER TO THE BHEARD OFFICE.
- If you have any questions, please email BHEARD@isp.msu.edu.



Instructions for Letter of Recommendation Writers - Malawi

An applicant for a scholarship sponsored by the **Borlaug Higher Education for Agricultural Research and Development (BHEARD)** has asked you to write a letter of recommendation. If you know the applicant and are either (1) the current head of department or immediate supervisor of the applicant or (2) a former lecturer/professor of the applicant, we wish to ask you to proceed to write the letter, and for this, we thank you.

Project Description: BHEARD is an agricultural research capacity-building project supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under its Feed the Future program. The main purpose is to strengthen research capacities of agricultural research units and universities in participating countries through PhD or MSc studies in the U.S. or other selected countries. All research projects will be conducted in Malawi.

Degree Training Program Description: Studies will begin in January or August 2015. This opportunity is for current staff members of the following institutions:

- **Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), particularly Bunda College of Agriculture**
- **Department of Agricultural Research Services (DARS)**
- **Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MoAFS)**

Priority areas of study are:

- **DARS: biometrics, and crop & soil science, and food science**
- **LUANAR: human nutrition, animal science, and crop & soil science, agricultural economics and agribusiness**
- **Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security: all fields**

Format and Content of Letter: At the beginning of the letter please indicate (1) your name, (2) your position, (3) your relationship to the applicant, and (4) the length of time you have known the applicant. Then, in your letter, please assess the applicant's technical competence in his/her area of expertise, critical thinking skills, communication abilities, and personal and work habits. Mention the value of the student's proposed area of study to the agricultural research priorities of Malawi. Please print your letter on the letterhead of your organization and sign the letter with your hand-written signature. **Do not give the letter to the applicant; instead, please email (from your own email account) a scanned copy of the signed letter directly to BHEARD (BHEARD@isp.msu.edu) by 30 June 2014.**

If you prefer to fax a copy of the letter, you may send it to BHEARD Project at: +1-517-432-1800. **Contact Information:** Queries may be made via email (BHEARD@isp.msu.edu).



Instructions for Employer's Letter of Release for Studies - Malawi

An employee of your organization is applying for a scholarship sponsored by the **Borlaug Higher Education Agricultural Research and Development (BHEARD)** project. You are requested to write a letter indicating whether your organization will release the applicant for study if he/she is selected as a finalist for this program.

Project Description: BHEARD is an agricultural research capacity-building project supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under its Feed the Future program. PhD and MSc training will be provided in the U.S. or other countries, with coursework overseas and thesis/dissertation research conducted in Malawi.

Degree Training Program Description: Eligibility is limited to current staff members from the following institutions:

- **Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), particularly Bunda College of Agriculture**
- **Department of Agricultural Research Services (DARS)**
- **Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MoAFS)**

Priority will be given to applicants who desire training in the following subject areas:

- **DARS: biometrics, crop & soil science, and food science**
- **LUANAR: human nutrition, animal, crop and soil sciences, agricultural economics and agribusiness**
- **MoAFS: all fields related to agriculture**

Format and Content of Letter: In the letter, please state clearly that your organization will release the applicant for study if the applicant is selected as a finalist.

Please provide the following information in your letter:

- Will your institution grant study leave to this candidate if he/she is awarded a scholarship?
- If yes, will their salary be maintained? If yes, how much per month?
- Are there other financial benefits besides salary? If yes, which in particular?
- What is the duration of study leave provided by your institution?
- Does your institution ensure the candidate their job on returning from their training?
- Does your institution facilitate access to your laboratories and infrastructure for the candidate during his/her research in Malawi?

Please print your letter on the letterhead of your organization and sign the letter with your handwritten signature. Your name and position should appear clearly below the signature. **Do not give**

the letter to the applicant; instead, please email (from your own email account) a scanned copy of the signed letter directly to BHEARD (BHEARD@isp.msu.edu) by 30 June 2014.

If you prefer to fax a copy of the letter, you may send it to BHEARD Project at:
+1-517-432-1800

Contact Information: Queries may be made via email (BHEARD@isp.msu.edu).